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Airman 1st Class **Jonathan Termun**
B-1 crew chief
Deployed from the 28th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.
Years in Air Force: 2.5
Hometown: Trenton, N.J.
Airmen in aerospace maintenance (2A5X1): 9,743

Watching over a WORKHORSE

Airman 1st Class Jonathan Termun is no stranger to military service. As an Air Force brat, brother of a Marine and grandson of a Soldier, he knew he was following a strong tradition of military service. But that wasn’t the only motivation he had for joining — he had long-term goals in mind. As the youngest of four kids growing up in New Jersey, he wanted to experience something different, get an education and work on airplanes.

With those goals in mind, it was a natural fit for Airman Termun to join the Air Force and become a crew chief. When he found out he would be working on the B-1 Lancer, he was thrilled.

“My favorite part about being a B-1 crew chief is watching my jet take off when it’s dark out and the flames are shooting out the back,” he said.

He likes seeing B-1s return empty even more. Knowing that all of the munitions were dropped signifies a successful mission — something he can only experience on deployments like his current one in Southwest Asia.

And it’s the efforts of crew chiefs like Airman Termun who have enabled the airframe to drop more bombs than any other aircraft since the war began. He has the job of inspecting the planes from nose to tail, ensuring the planes are ready for each mission.

“We are accomplishing the mission,” Airman Termun said. “[On my last deployment], we were really just a show of force, but here, we’re doing [close-air support]. We’re actually dropping bombs and helping out guys on the ground. It’s good to know you’re helping save lives.”

by Staff Sgt. Shad Eidson
photo by Master Sgt. Scott Wagers